

PICKING UP THE PAUPERS.

IMMIGRANTS' IDEAS OF AMERICA.

AN ITALIAN LABORER.

DAY AND NOT WISHING FOR MORE.

The Congressional Committee on Immigration spent yesterday at Castle Garden inspecting and examining over 700 Italian immigrants who had just arrived on the Eliza, of the Anchor Line, and Britannia, of the Fabre Line. They were far above the average in appearance and intelligence, yet, of less than 300 who underwent the preliminary examination, some fifty doubtful ones were found. These, Acting Chairman Gardner examined minutely. Before taking up the examination of the Italian, however, he examined investigation of a Prussian, who had arrived at Castle Garden on Saturday. Hebelke could not speak a word of English, and confessed that he had no friends in this country. His seven children, ranging in age from seven to seventeen, were brought before the committee. The man testified that he had been partially dependent on his brother, who had furnished him the money for the passage of himself and children. He had only \$50. The agent in Hamburg, from whom he had purchased the tickets, had assured him that he would secure work immediately upon arriving here. The man was detained for the reason that he seemed likely to be a public charge. He did not appear to be strong and was not used to manual labor.

WAS PROMISED TO EVERY MAN.

Of the Italians examined the greater part had been sent for by some cousin, brother-in-law or friend who had sent them a prepaid ticket. Work had been promised to all of them, and some of them had been sent to work. Barely did one of them have over ten francs, while many were without a cent. No amount of examination could force one of them to say that he had come over under contract. The promise of work, they explained, was an assurance on the part of some relative that there was "plenty of work at good wages." They all expected to go back to Italy as soon as they had accumulated some small sum of money, one or two hundred dollars. Two or three who were examined had been in the United States before and had returned to live in comfort with their people. After wasting or being robbed of their little fortunes they were seeking new ones. Their idea of the condition of affairs in the United States were more enough to add a little amusement to the routine of the investigation. All were agreed that money here was to be had without any effort. Some of those who had been in America before thought that the country was "ruled by a president." Just what kind of a sovereign a president was they were not sure. As a rule those who were questioned thought that in the United States, as in Italy, there was a King at the head of the Government. One man who had lived in this country for six years had taken out his first naturalization papers. He was certain that he was to be allowed to vote some day for the King.

LIVING ON TWENTY-FIVE CENTS A DAY.

The most important examination was that of Michael Molinaro. He had lived in America five years until last November, when he had gone to Italy to visit his family. He was going back to Pennsylvania to work for \$15 a day, he had always been able to send home \$15 a month to his family. He said that he could live well for 25 cents a day. He had always been satisfied with that, and had always had everything that he wanted. He would not ask for anything more. He was very cheerful in Italy, for he could eat meat there, and only eat vegetables in America, whereas in Italy such a luxury, costing 20 cents a pound, was out of the question.

Over twenty-five Italians were examined under oath as to the conditions under which they were induced to come to America, and as to the wages they had received in Italy, their manner of living there, and the work and wages they had received in the United States. The effectiveness of the work of the committee was hampered by the lack of members present. General Spina had promised to be present yesterday, but the first time he was called to the stand. The committee will meet again to-day at the West-minster Hotel.

TO TEST IMMIGRANT LAWS IN THE COURTS.

The case of Ernest Behelke, the immigrant who landed from the steamship Sironia on Sunday, accompanied by his family of seven children, was yesterday referred to Collector Maguire for his decision as to whether the man should be allowed to remain in this country or be sent back to Europe, on the ground that he or his children might become a charge upon the state. The Collector decided that the family must be sent back on the steamer, and warned Superintendent Jackson to that effect. The steamship company will to-day take steps to contest this decision, on the ground that the man is able-bodied, intelligent and not a pauper, having money, \$50, sufficient for his immediate necessities.

THE COURTS.

FOR WORK ON THE GARDEN CITY CATHEDRAL.

The report of Judge H. C. Van Velsor, as referee, was confirmed yesterday by the Supreme Court. The referee, Alfred Roosevelt, an executor of the estate of H. L. Roosevelt, is entitled to a judgment of \$7,000 against Charles J. Clench and Alfred Henry Hilton, as executors of the estate of Commodore Henry O. Roosevelt, upon contracts for constructing organs, etc., for the Garden City Cathedral, and extra services and materials furnished. The original claim was \$10,000, but it was reduced to \$6,988. The latter claim was not disputed, and with interest makes the amount of the judgment.

BILLS OF LEGAL NEWS.

Stephen B. Rits has been an inmate of Ward's Island Lunatic Asylum for fifteen years. Yesterday a sheriff's jury decided that he was insane. Free released in the regular arm in 1861, and a few months later was afflicted with a disease of the eyes. He was sent home, but was not discharged, and did not receive any pay. After he became insane he lived with his wife, who now lives at No. 200 Striving, made application to the Governor for the money due, which now amounts to thousands of dollars. The inquiry as to Rits's sanity was made at the instance of the Governor.

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